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Letter dated 2 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of the Republic of Korea, the Security Council will hold an open debate, on 7 May 2014, on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To help steer the discussions on the subject, the Republic of Korea has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council open debate on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: commemorating the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004) and looking ahead

Concept note

Introduction

During its presidency of the Security Council in May 2014, the Republic of Korea proposes that a high-level Security Council open debate on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction be held on 7 May under the topic "Commemorating the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and looking ahead".

In today's globalized world, connectivity has brought both opportunities and vulnerabilities. Increased potential access to weapons of mass destruction and related materials and technology has heightened the risk posed by the dangerous nexus between weapons of mass destruction and global terrorism. Incidents of transfers of such sensitive materials and technology indicate that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a grave concern for all, as these transfers may affect or have implications for any State. A single attack on any country involving the use of weapons of mass destruction will have reverberations beyond that country's borders, with serious adverse impacts on security, the economy, society and the environment.

Against this backdrop, in 2004 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1540 (2004) under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Affirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security, the resolution obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using such weapons, to adopt and enforce effective laws and to establish domestic controls. The resolution also affirms support for the multilateral treaties which aim to eliminate or prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and highlights the importance of their full implementation by all States.

Recognizing that full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term task that requires continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels, the Security Council adopted resolution 1977 (2011), extending the mandate of the Committee for a period of 10 years, to 2021. It also mandated the Committee to continue to strengthen its role in facilitating the provision of assistance, enhancing cooperation with relevant international organizations and reinforcing its outreach efforts.

Where we stand

Over the past 10 years, significant strides have been taken towards the realization of the universal implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Member

States have been exerting strenuous efforts to fulfil their obligations. This is evidenced by the fact that 172 of 193 Member States have voluntarily submitted their national reports to the Committee. Universal reporting from all remaining Member States who have yet to submit their implementation reports will further consolidate our progress towards this shared goal.

Global cooperation has also advanced the "matchmaking" of assistance requests and offers. To date, 47 Member States and 15 international, regional and subregional organizations have formally registered as assistance providers with the Committee in the areas of legislation, enforcement and technical assistance.

Considerable efforts have also been made on direct dialogue and assistance. A great number of initiatives by Member States and regional and international organizations have contributed significantly to awareness-raising and capacity-building. In 2013 alone, more than 100 events were held in all regions of the world, reflecting the global commitment towards effective implementation of the resolution. In this process, the Committee and international and regional organizations have cooperated through joint briefings and outreach events, as well as through sharing of information and lessons learned.

Looking ahead: challenges and ways forward

The tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004) provides a timely opportunity to look both back and forward on our efforts. Despite past achievements, daunting challenges still lie ahead in an operational environment made increasingly complex by the rapid advances in science and technology.

Moving forward from a decade of awareness-raising to a decade of full and sustained implementation will require a long-term vision and strategy. The sophisticated deception mechanisms employed by proliferators will require effective multilateralism and a whole-of-society approach. The tenth anniversary also provides us with the opportunity to strengthen the political will of leaders to ensure full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to promote public awareness among civil society throughout the globe on the continuing importance of the resolution in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Member States may wish to reflect on the following:

- Assessment of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)
- Ways to effectively address threats posed by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, including newly emerging, potential threats
- Development of a long-term vision and strategy for effective implementation
- Enhancing the assistance "matchmaking" mechanism
- Strengthening trans-shipment and proliferation financing controls
- Consolidating existing non-proliferation efforts and resources
- Promoting synergies between non-proliferation and counter-terrorism
- Ways to effectively raise awareness of the importance of full implementation of the resolution, in particular among high-level policymakers around the world

Lively discussions and the contribution of ideas and recommendations by all Member States will therefore be integral to developing a common global strategy. They will be taken into account in the upcoming comprehensive review to be held by the end of 2016 in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the findings of which will be submitted to the Security Council. In this vein, a constructive open debate on resolution 1540 (2004) will be of quintessential importance for assisting the future work of the Committee.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea will preside over the debate and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations will brief the Council.

The expected outcome of the debate would be the adoption of a presidential statement.

More information about the Committee, all relevant resolutions and national reports can be found online at www.un.org/en/sc/1540/.